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WARNING: TOPIC: DOMESTIC POLITICAL, INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC,
INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL, MILITARY
SERIAL:IMR2016011357936585

BODY

COUNTRY: IRAN

SUBJ: (U) COMMANDER: US IN NEW CRISIS IF NOT FOR IRAN'S GOODWILL

SOURCE: Tehran Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA)

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in English 13 Jan
16 (U)
TEXT:

[NEWS AGENCIES]

[OSC Transcribed Text]

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[Computer selected and disseminated without OSE editorial intervention] Tehran, Jan 13, IRNA - Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Major General Hassan Firouzabadi said what happened to American sailors on Tuesday proved how vulnerable the US is in front of powerful Iranian forces.

Were it not for the good intentions of the Iranian commanders, he said, the US was facing yet another crisis now.

The incident showed the vigilance of the Iranian armed forces, the commander noted.

Iran released ten US marines it was holding for crossing into Iranian territorial waters.

IRGC Public Relations Department, in a statement, said that the US navy boats were stopped Tuesday at 4:30 PM (local time) when they entered Iranian territorial waters near Farsi Island in the middle of the Persian Gulf.

IRGC declared that the US navy boats entered Iranian territorial waters illegally.

The US boats lost contact with their central commanding units due to technical problems but were rescued by Iranian forces.

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[Description of Source: Tehran Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) in English -- Official state-run online news agency; URL: <http://www.irna.ir>]

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